



City of Alexandria, Virginia

OLD TOWN NORTH SMALL AREA PLAN UPDATE

Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation

Subcommittee Meeting #1
Wednesday, January 20, 2016
4:30 – 6:00 PM

OTN SAP Update Objectives



OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

KEY OBJECTIVES FROM CHARRETTE

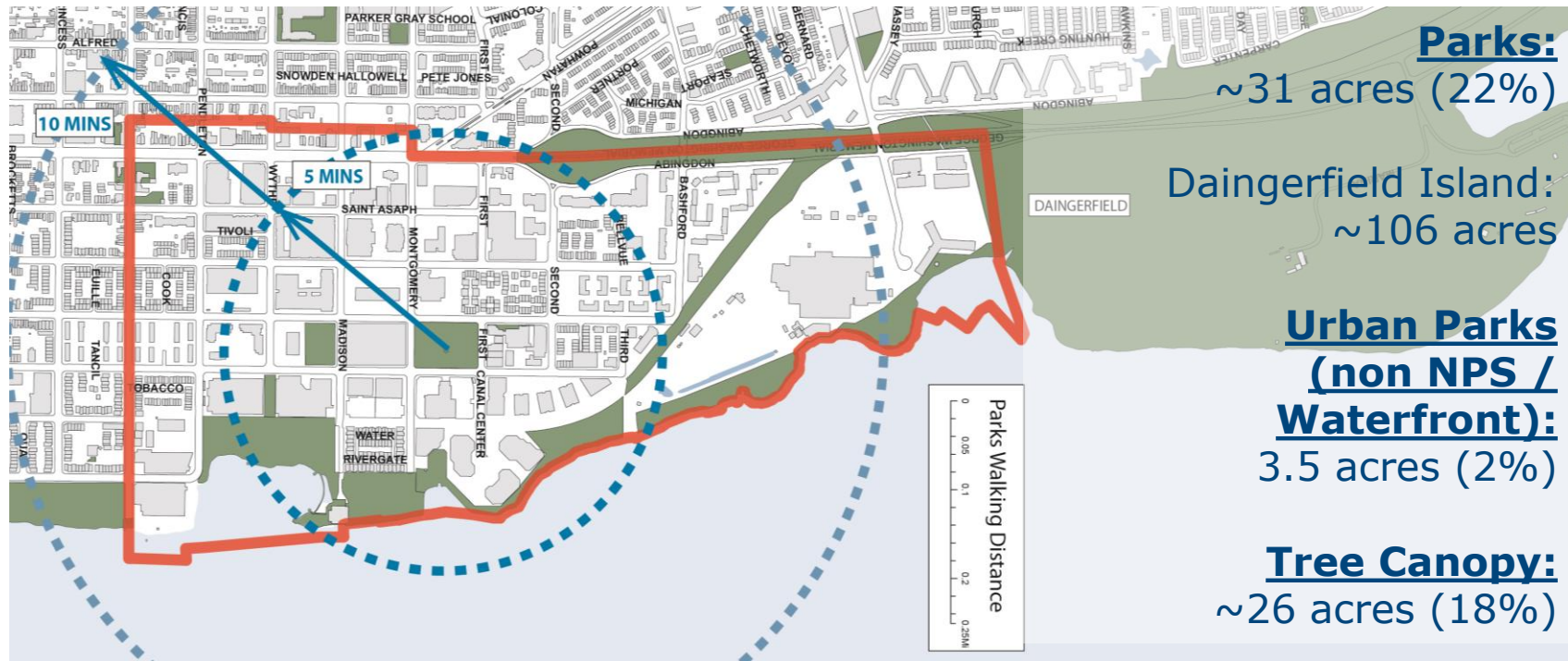
- Identify New Open Space and Enhance Existing Space
- Variety of Design
- Montgomery Park as Heart
- Create Linear Park, Greenways and Vistas
- Green Space in the North
- Connectivity of Spaces and Amenities
- Connect to Daingerfield Island
- Explore Interior and exterior Activity/Community Facility Space
- Identify New Public Art Opportunities – Cultural District
- Preserve existing Cultural Uses
- Explore Use of Tracks

Open Space



NEIGHBORHOOD & CONTEXTUAL RESOURCES

OTN Plan Area: 140
acres



CHARRETTE DRAFT OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK



OPEN SPACE
Ideas for Future Study



Old Town North



Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation

OPEN SPACE AND CONNECTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES



STREETSCAPE - BLANK STREET WALLS



Old Town North

Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation

STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE

New Open Space - NRG



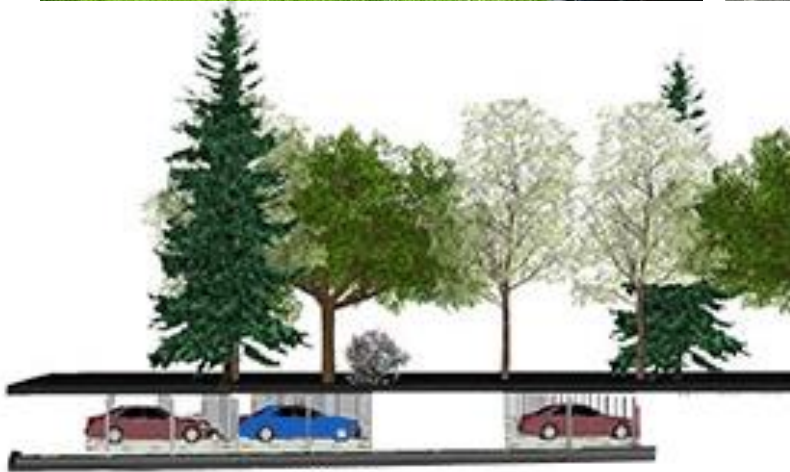
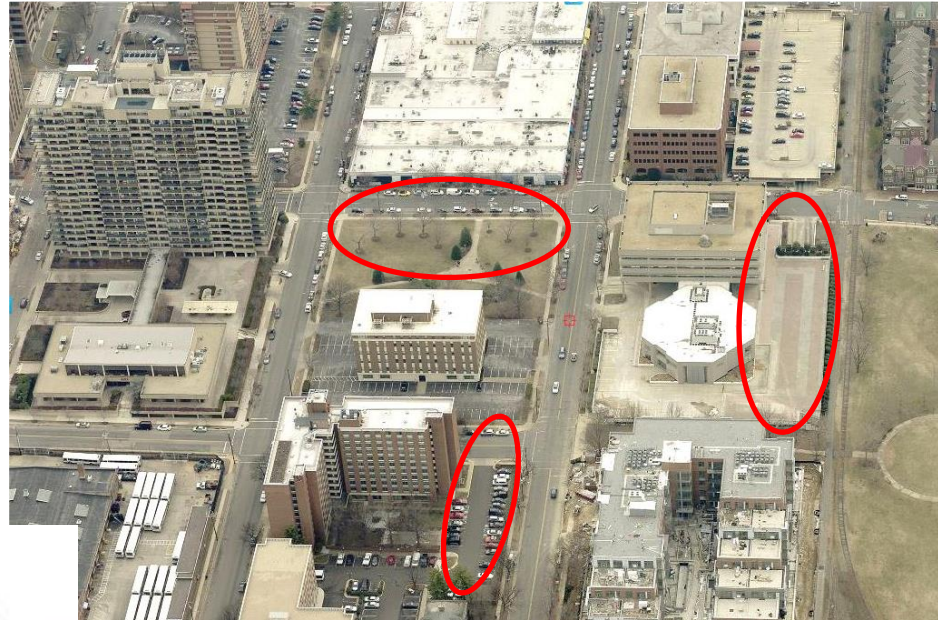
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Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation

STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE

New/Improved Open Space – Other Sites



STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE

Trails/Park Enhancements



Old Town North



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan for 17 neighborhood-serving parks throughout the City including Montgomery Park
- Size ranges 0.5 - 10 acres with a service area of up to 0.5 miles.
- In addition to Park Planning workshops, surveys and comment boards, a Community Meeting was held, at the request of the Park & Recreation Commission, on November 17 to discuss the Montgomery Park Improvement Plan
- On November 19, 2015 the Park and Recreation Commission endorsed the [Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan](#)
- City Council will receive the plan at its Legislative Session on January 26, 2016.



Existing conditions

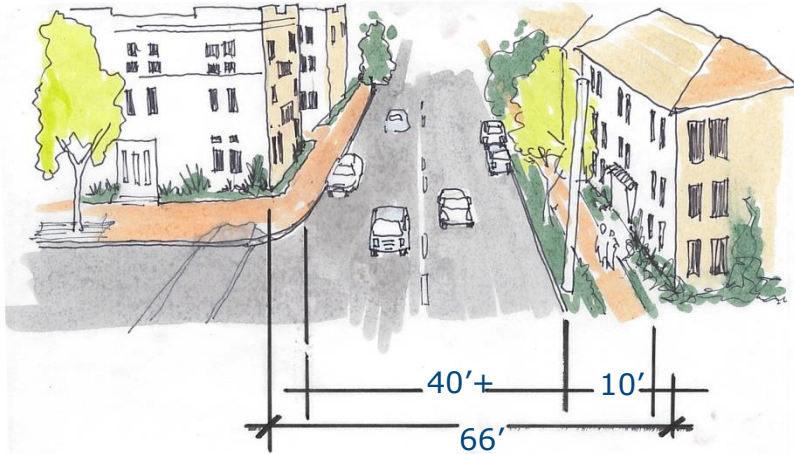
IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Renovate, expand, and reconfigure the playground
2. Improve plantings along Royal Street
3. Remove parking meters in the parking lot and replace them with 2-hour parking limit
4. Renovate the parking lot and include green infrastructure
5. Fix drainage issues along Fairfax St.
6. Develop and implement a detailed landscape plan for the passive use area in the center of the park
7. Add a backboard for solo play to the tennis court fence

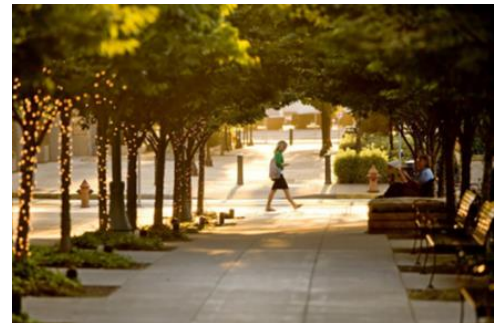
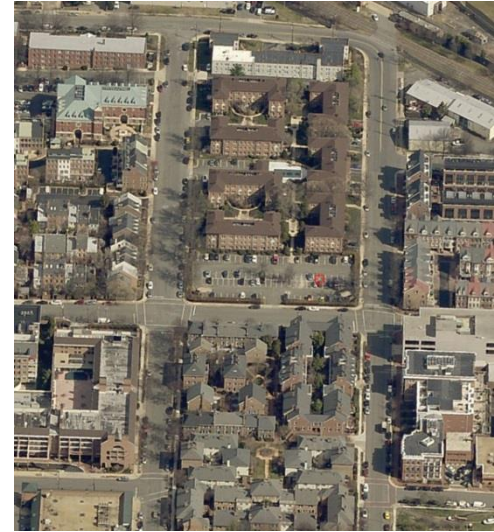
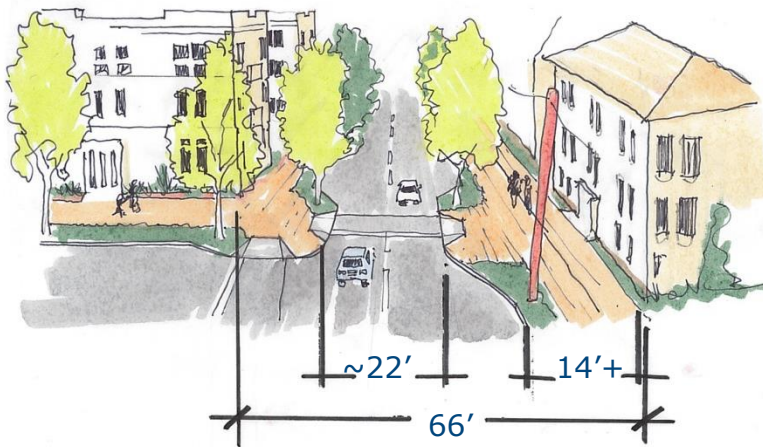


Proposed Layout

STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE



Street Enhancements

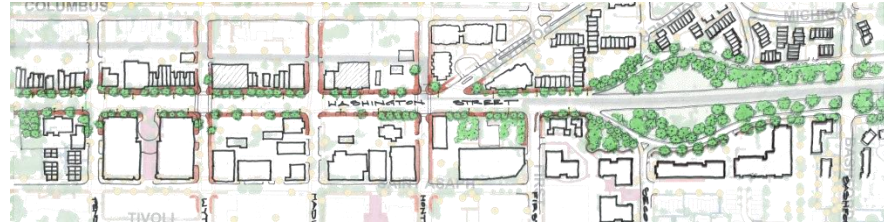


STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE

Environmental Design



Cultural/Historic



Group Discussion - Direction



POTENTIAL TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR OPEN SPACES OBJECTIVES

Input from the sub-committee

Topics for further study

1. Development Sites: On-site (smaller) vs. Consolidated (larger)?
2. Other New Open Space Sites: Aside from NRG and the rail corridor, which (if any) other private sites should staff explore improved open space?
3. Streetscape Improvements: Which streets / sidewalks should staff explore enhancements to – e.g. widening / environmental design

Art/Entertainment District (Cultural District)

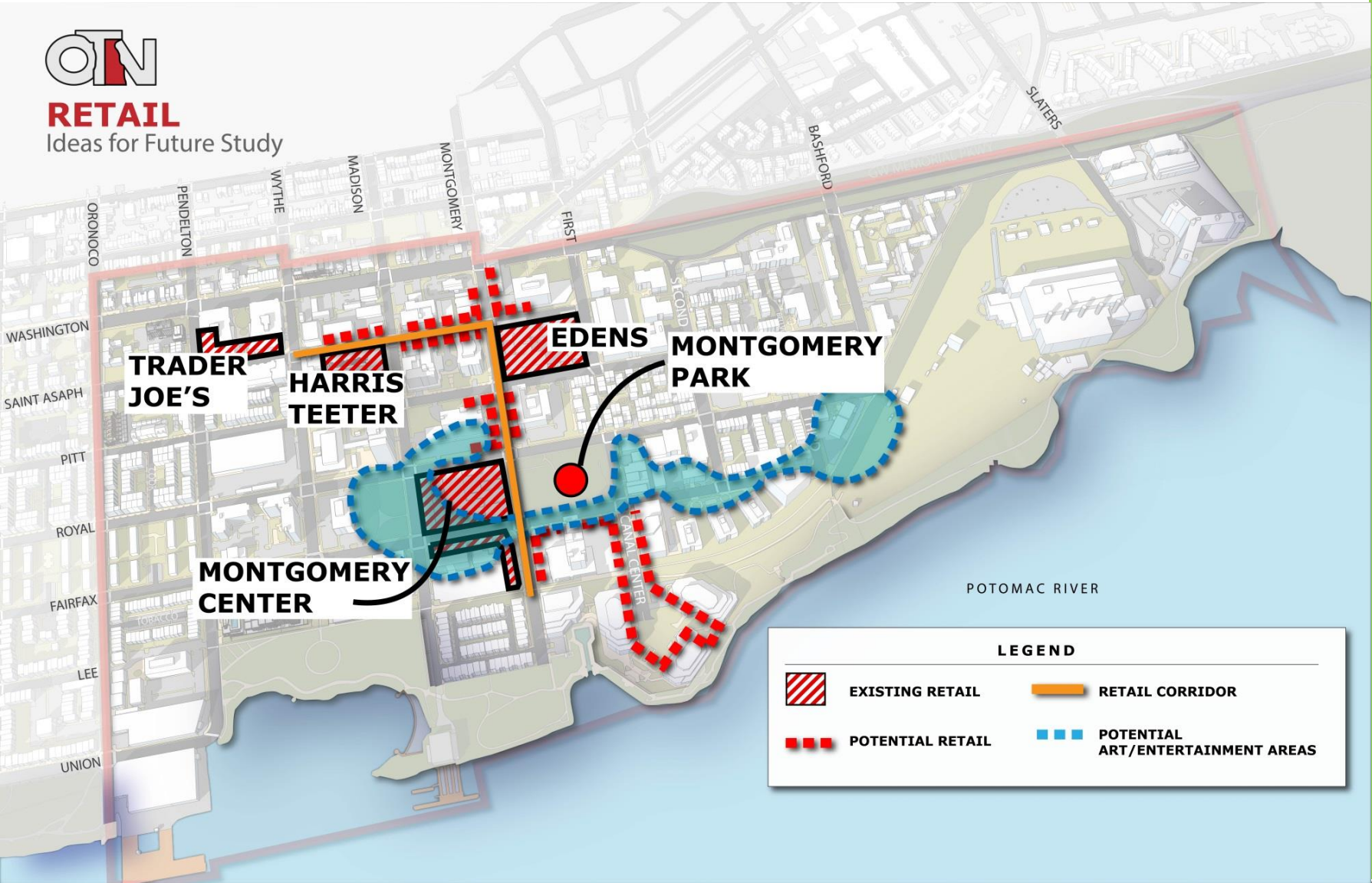


CHARRETTE DRAFT ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT



RETAIL

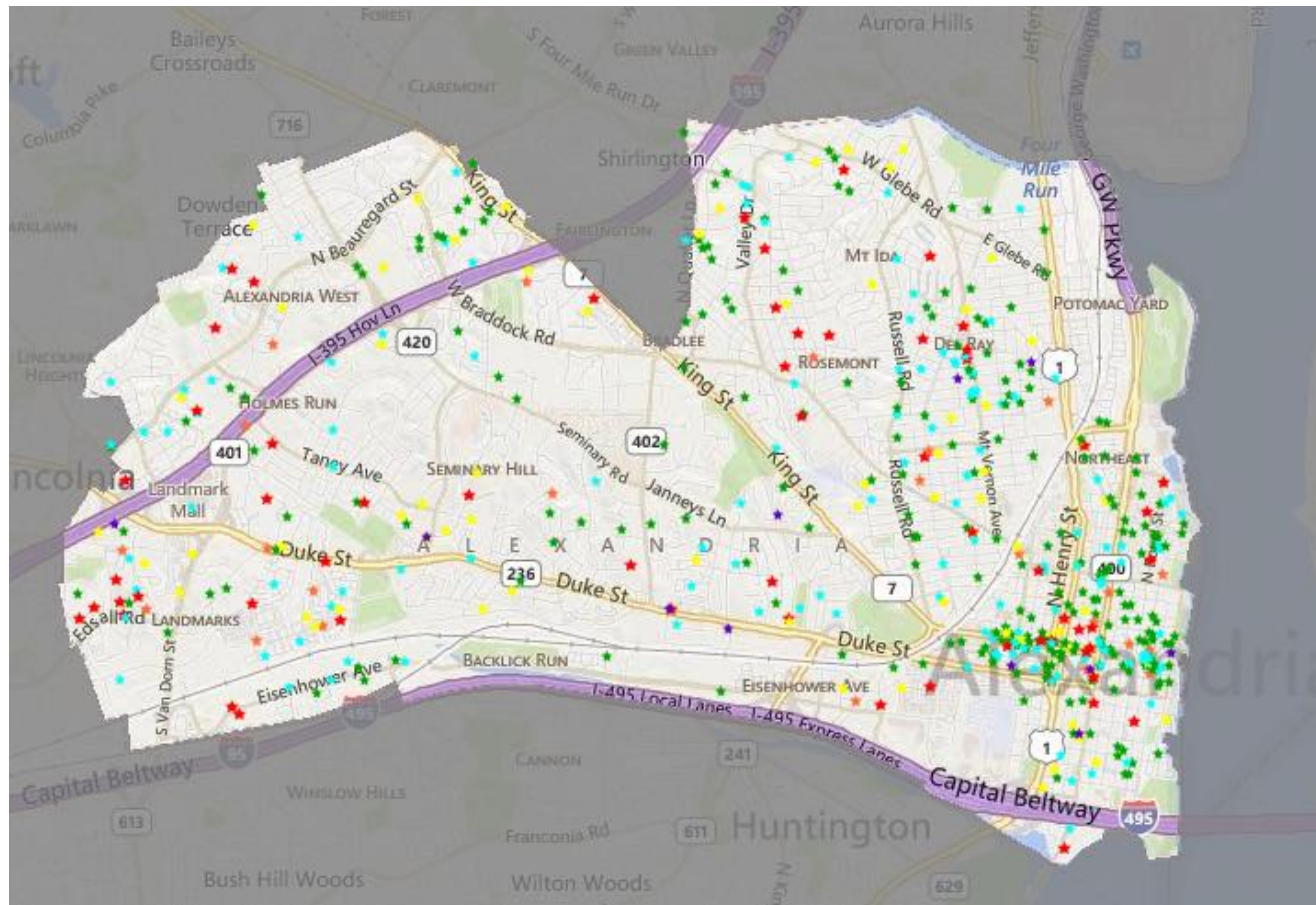
Ideas for Future Study



Old Town North

Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation

669 Arts-Related Businesses Employ 3,588 People



Arts- Related Business

- ★ Museums/Collections
- ★ Performing Arts
- ★ Visual/Photography
- ★ Film, Radio, TV
- ★ Design/Publishing
- ★ Art School/Services

§ 15.2-1129.1 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, RELATING TO ARTS AND CULTURAL DISTRICTS.

Any locality may by ordinance establish within its boundaries an arts and cultural district for the purpose of increasing awareness and support for the arts and culture in the locality. Each locality may provide incentives for the support and creation of arts and cultural venues in the district. Each locality may also grant tax incentives and provide certain regulatory flexibility in an arts and cultural district.

B. The tax incentives may be provided for up to 10 years and may include, but not be limited to: (i) reduction of permit fees; (ii) reduction of user fees; and (iii) reduction of any type of gross receipts tax. The extent and duration of such incentive proposals shall conform to the requirements of the Constitutions of Virginia and of the United States.

C. Each locality may also provide for regulatory flexibility in such zone which may include, but not be limited to: (i) special zoning for the district; (ii) permit process reform; (iii) exemption from ordinances; and (iv) any other incentive adopted by ordinance, which shall be binding upon the locality for a period of up to 10 years.



CULTURAL DISTRICT – PROS AND CONS

- Provides Tax Incentives for Cultural Development
- Identifies a specific area of the City for Arts and Culture
- May not provide protection for Existing Arts Organizations



CULTURAL DISTRICT – CONSIDERATIONS

- Is it in the right area in the City?
- Can incentives be provided without the legal designation?

CULTURAL DISTRICT – STRATEGIES

- Citywide Arts & Culture Plan
- Temporary Public Art
- Cultural Programming



Group Discussion - Direction



Input on Strategies for Arts/Entertainment District (Cultural District) Formation and Operation for Staff to Study and Test



Historic Preservation



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEY OBJECTIVES FROM CHARRETTE

- Enhance and Reinforce special character of Washington Street
- Preserve, Integrate and Celebrate historic and archaeological Resources
- Incorporate Historic Interpretation
- Make History Part of the Plan
- Utilize appropriate and varied Architecture
- Allow modern along with historically preserved Architecture

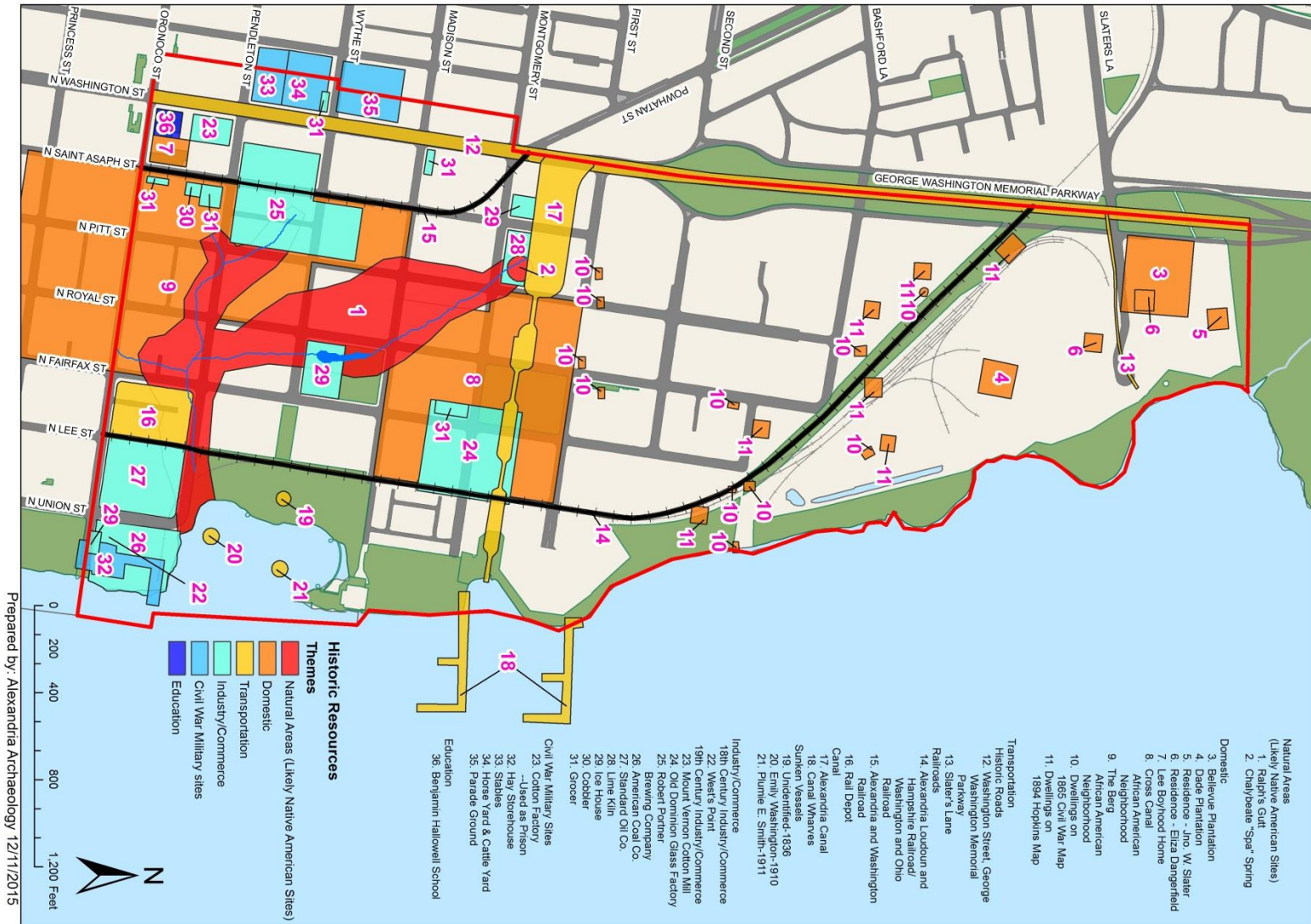


CHARRETTE KNOWN AND POTENTIAL HISTORIC RESOURCES MAP

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Old Town North

Known and Potential Historic Resources



CHARRETTE DRAFT HISTORIC THEME AREAS



HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY: THEME AREAS

Ideas for Future Study



Old Town North

Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Historic Preservation

HISTORIC PRESERVATION – NEXT STEPS

1. Complete a historical narrative of the Old Town North Planning Area
2. Update the Known and Potential Historic Resources Map
3. Create an OTN History/Interpretive Plan
 - a. Include refinement of the Charrette Thematic Map
 - b. Include possible Design Elements to complement Historic Interpretation
 - c. Include possible enhancements for existing Historical Interpretation



Group Discussion - Direction



POTENTIAL HISTORY PLAN

Subcommittee Discussion on Potential OTN History Plan to meet Historic Preservation Objectives



N e x t S t e p s

NEXT STEPS

- January 25, 2016 – Subcommittee Report to the full Advisory Group
- February – Study and Testing Phases
- Next Meeting – March 9, 2016: Time and Location To be Decided

OLD TOWN NORTH SMALL AREA PLAN UPDATE

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